

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 14, 2005 has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1, 4-6, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Simington (US 4005564).

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Simington in view of the patent to Scherling (US 290803).

Claims 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Simington in view of the patent to Conrad (US 458797).

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims applicant has canceled claims 4-6 and amended claims 1 and 7. It is respectfully submitted that no new issues have been raised by the changes to claim 1 since the subject matter added was present in claims 4-6 which have previously been considered by the Examiner.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file

differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, and particularly to the patent to Simington, it can be seen that this patent discloses a bridle bit. Simington does not disclose a snaffle bit in which the side parts of the mouth piece are connected by a joint that can only pivot around an axis substantially perpendicular to the plane, as in the presently claimed invention. In Simington, the center coupling member 22 has a ball and socket connection with the side parts of the mouth piece so that the side parts can pivot in many different directions, not just one as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 4-6, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the above-discussed reference is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The Scherling patent has been discussed previously during the prosecution of this application. This reference discloses a bridle bit having a center portion for placement in the horse's mouth,

which center portion is made up of five parts so that it can flex in the horse's mouth. Scherling does not disclose a bit having a mouth piece made of at most two side parts that are connected by a joint that can only pivot around an axis substantially perpendicular to the plane, as in the presently claimed invention.

The Examiner combined this reference with Simington in determining that claim 7 would be unpatentable over such a combination. Since neither of these references teaches a mouthpiece consisting of at most two side parts that are connected by a joint that can only pivot around an axis substantially perpendicular to the plane, their combination cannot teach such a construction as recited in the claims presently on file.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The Conrad patent discloses a method of making wrenches. This


reference has nothing to do with a bit of any type and thus would not give any suggestion or motivation for modifying a bit as taught by Simington.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 13, 2005.

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